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31 May 1962

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2 June 62

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting of the Special Group, 31 May 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor and Mr. Bundy (Items 4-6); Mr. Gilpatric (Items 1-4); Mr. Johnson; General Carter (Items 1-3) and Mr. Karamessinas

1. Reconnaissance

a. The COMOR proposal on North Vietnam was approved as presented. The COMOR paper on South China was approved with the stipulation that the one mission previously authorized but not yet accomplished will be mounted whenever conditions permit, and that two more are hereby authorized. After the completion of these three, the results will be assessed and requests for any further missions will be submitted for policy approval in the normal manner.

b. The TACKLE proposal was approved, with the stipulation that after the two missions asked for have been completed, results of those plus the three earlier ones will be presented for review by the Special Group.

c. The DOD June monthly forecast was noted. General Taylor asked whether the large number of missions mounted each month by elements of Defense are kept under constant review. Colonel Steakley explained in some detail how this total is built up and emphasized that it is in fact subject to such review. He added that the DIA has sent a message to all appropriate components in the field reiterating that every mission must be based on a valid intelligence requirement.

d. Colonel Steakley gave a briefing on the potential of FIREFLY. It was noted that the USIB had considered this project this morning, and that it had been agreed that it should not be put to the Special Group for approval at this time. Mr. Gilpatric confirmed that DOD is not pushing for such consideration, but that Colonel Steakley's briefing was for information.

e. Project DANIEL -- the proposed destroyer reconnaissance in the Yellow Sea -- received specific approval.

f. Major Moran summarized the results of Project FALCON.

g. The CIA monthly forecast for June was noted, and the three COMORNA missions specifically approved. Attention was called to the resumption of missions.

NSC review(s) completed.

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2. Special Clearance System

Mr. Johnson's memorandum on this subject was discussed. General Taylor raised a basic question as to how many people it is contemplated will be included in the proposed system, and exactly what will be revealed to them.

Mr. Bundy urged that the type of official whom it is contemplated will be brought within this system need be told only that it is a U.S. policy to safeguard possible future capabilities, and that they do not need to be told anything about present capabilities. There was some discussion on this point; there seemed to be general agreement that it is desirable to restrict the number of additional people briefed to a minimum, and that any new system should be based on this factor as long as it is possible to achieve the desired purpose, i.e., to prevent inadvertent damage to U.S. interests.

It was decided that the DCI, in coordination with the Department of State, should be asked to present to the Special Group recommendations on what information should be revealed and how many people should be exposed to it. action

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3. Reorganization of []

The CIA paper on this subject dated 21 May was noted.

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4. Approach to []

The Group approved the proposed approach to [] 25X1
for the purpose of establishing covert contact with him. It was noted that up to [] may be expended on possible assistance to him.

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5. []

The draft memorandum from the State Department on this subject was next considered. Mr. Karamessinas said that CIA believes the objectives of this project are entirely sound, and that the Agency is ready to act as executive agent, if desired; however, the Agency does not have the required funds to support the project.

Mr. Bundy said that the participation of the U.S. Government in this endeavor is bound to become known and, therefore, U.S. support must be provided overtly. Accordingly, it seems clear that AID should take the project on.

The Group agreed with this line of reasoning, and the proposal was withdrawn from the cognizance of the Special Group.

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6. Project SPIDER WEB

General Taylor questioned why it is necessary to use the British as a front in negotiating this project with [REDACTED]. It was pointed out that it appears this is the only way of achieving [REDACTED] concurrence, and that the USIB has agreed.

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(Signed) Thomas A. Parrott

Thomas A. Parrott

Distribution

Mr. Johnson

Mr. Gilpatric

General Carter

General Taylor

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